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Jingle Bell Run
Our first Hallmark movie review on pg. 3

Telling our story
Meet local storytellers on pg. 5

Classic Christmas
Read about some favourite holiday traditions on pg. 7

Wendy Evenden of the Highlands Chamber Orchestra smiles during their performance of Other Worlds on Nov. 24. For more photos, see inside this edition. /TIM YANO Staff photographer

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Roots, bark, branches

DEBORAH REED
County Life contributor

Trees. Always loved them. They whisper and click at night, with or without leaves. They're supernatural at sunset, or with stars in their storybook arms. Earthly against otherworldly. Tethered, but reaching.

Trees in imagery are timeless, representing as many faiths and metaphors as there are imaginations. Touching bark, I feel instantly connected to my ancestors, to myself, to Canada. Trees are ubiquitous, comforting, familiar. They replace themselves with seeds, feed on recycled leaves, shelter wildlife, attract humanity. We pick their fruit, borrow their wood, build hideaways partway up, watch seasons transform them. Some of us even worship trees.

Pagans brought evergreens into their homes over Yule to represent eternal life. Sixteenth-century Germans introduced Christmas trees, and decorated them with symbolic wafers and candles. Oak, olive, willow, baobab, fig, rowan and 'grandmother' trees - all perpetuate sacred ancient mythologies.

Trees spark infinite Canadian creativity. Group of Seven, Maud Lewis, Emily Carr, Tom Thomson, David Milne, Clarence Gagnon, Norval Morrisseau, Doris McCarthy, Ethel Curry – this is merely a shortlist of Canadian painters who also loved trees.

Literature and film are endlessly inspired. Animation. Video games. Indigenous cultures. Traditional music. Dance. Landscaping. Composing. Emblems - my core list could 'branch' forever into millions more tree connections, and a delicious invitation to those with a taste for trivia.

Most pre-schoolers draw minimalist trees. Bright circles on toothpick trunks. There's actually such a thing in nature, the copaiba tree of Brazil, which, especially while blooming, is colloquially called 'the lollipop tree'. Alternately, youngsters might draw zigzag triangles with their 'pine' or 'forest green' Crayolas, mimicking conifers which grow almost worldwide.

As 60s school-kids, we learned that waxed paper wasn't only for wrapping lunches, and that ironing was more than housework. Most of us received the same September assignment - to label local leaftypes. They had many names, we'd learn, as well as incredible diversity of form and colour. So we'd set to hunting-gathering various windfalls, sorting them with parents or encyclopedias, pressing them inside heavy books, 'sandwiching' waxed paper around our finest specimens, ironing layers together through a dish towel, cutting out the cooled results, then stylishly gluing our collections onto white Bristol board. Those of us with extra pennies and panache further swathed our projects in plastic wrap, a posh new product of our era, but not so organically desirable these days.

Other fairly modern 'sandwiches' in our lunch boxes were Dare Maple Crème cookies. Once an unfamiliar flavour to me, maple syrup now ranks as one of my favourite tree commodities (along with McIntosh apples). In researching other distinctly Canadian icons (canoe, beaver, lacrosse, hockey), I noted that many symbols relate directly to trees. Even our country's famous flag features an obvious maple leaf, not to mention team Toronto's hockey jersey, military uniforms and our official coins.

Roots, bark, branches. Be grateful. Enchanted. Protective. Scientists now accept that trees communicate, hold energy, share signals, network among themselves and with the larger biome. They also make shade and oxygen.

No wonder we hug them!

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When: Sunday, Dec. 1, 3 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec 3 at 7 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George Street, Haliburton
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When: Saturday Dec. 7, 7 to 9 p.m.
Where: Red Cross Outpost Historic House, 2314 Loop Rd, Wilberforce
Join us for good cheer, seasonal goodies and hot apple cider. Contact: Barb Schofield, 705-448-2598, wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca

Highland Wind Symphony Holiday Concert
When: Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m.
Where: Lakeside Church, Haliburton
"Sounds of the Season" and other musical favourites. Admission Adults $15, Family $30. Tickets available at Master's Bookstore Haliburton or Minden Pharmasave. Call or text 705-457-0455 for information.

A Hallmark movie review: Jingle Bell Run

ASHLEY MCALLISTER

Special to *County Life*

My illustrious brush with literary acclaim began when I was a teenage manager of my family's video store Press Play, writing an emoji-heavy and angst-ridden movie review column called the *Flick Chick*. The holiday spirit has me coming out of retirement, just in time for Christmas movie season. My favourite holiday movie genre blends small towns, a weird amount of family owned inns, and a festive but detail-loose plot with a minor problem that's solved with very few questions. That's right, I'm talking about the Hallmark Christmas movie. If you're new to Hallmark canon, it can be a bit intimidating. This year alone there are 32 new movies with imperceptibly different titles, and you can't possibly watch them all. But I can. So this month I'm going to break down a few of my favourite 2024 Hallmark Christmas movies so that even if you don't have 85 minutes to suspend your disbelief that anyone owns that many impractical winter coats, you can still feel like you're participating in a low stakes holiday tradition.

So my dear neighbours, let's kick this off with *Jingle Bell Run*, which combines a few of my favourite things: reality competition shows, hockey players for no reason, and Ashley Williams. *Jingle Bell Run* is about Avery, an "unadventurous" (Hallmark's word choice, which I have decided just means she's really into crossword puzzles) school teacher, whose sister betrays her and secretly signs her up for The Great Holiday Dash, a Christmas-themed reality competition show where she's paired with Wes, whose whole personality is that he's a retired hockey player struggling with no longer being famous, I guess. The winning team gets one million dollar, which Avery – who, as a reminder, is an elementary school teacher in the public school system – doesn't have a personal need for. She does agree to compete in support of the children's literacy charity she founded, presumably when she was busy being "unadventorous." Wes is doing this solely for the fame, or something. Like any good Hallmark movie, these characters have truly nothing in common and seem ill prepared for the storyline written for them. Avery demonstrates approximately zero athleticism, which, same, and Wes does not have the type of personality that shines in a reality show format, which is to say he makes a lot of hockey references that probably aren't finding their target audience in Hallmark movie viewers. Wes and Avery start off on the wrong foot, because Avery seems to be a good judge of character and Wes does not have any.

The movie takes us through holiday themed challenges that include literal nutcracking, decorating a holiday-themed store window, and hitting a pinata - none of which need to be elaborated on further because they aren't relevant to the plot. Each challenge allows Avery and Wes to develop as characters, with Avery, perhaps implausibly, using the school curriculum to solve the challenge riddles, and Wes to … honestly, Wes doesn't bring a lot to this team. He does bring the movie's major conflict, however: a producer latches on to Wes's B-level fame and pitches the idea of faking a romance with Avery to get ratings up, without her knowledge.

About two thirds through the movie, Wes redeems himself with a thoughtful gift for Avery. It's an ornament of all the places she's visited as a newly "adventurous" person – i.e. four cities in her home country. This is also where Wes utters the single greatest line of any Hallmark movie I've ever seen: "Last year when I won the Stanley Cup, my team had incredible chemistry. It reminds me a lot of you and me."

Reader, if you have made it this far you are probably thinking that these movies are terrible, overwritten, and cringy. You are wrong. At this point I am screaming with glee at my television. There is nothing I want more than love for this former pro-athlete and the self-proclaimed "not a sports human" with nothing in common except forced proximity. Alas, Wes does not follow up his Stanley Cup pickup line with their big movie kiss, because he is visibly guilty about agreeing to fake a romance in hopes of reigniting the fame he doesn't seem to want anymore, which is good for character building but personally I had already forgotten about that part.

Hallmark doesn't spend a lot of time dwelling on conflict, and so therefore neither will I. The movie culminates in Avery finding out about the fake romance plot. She angrily confronts Wes, but ultimately agrees to finish the race "for her students." In a surprise to nobody, Avery – who has worn heels this whole time – and Wes win The Great Holiday Dash. Avery announces she's using part of her winnings to fund the dreams of all the other contestants, because she's probably an elder sister. Wes announces he's giving up his aspirations to be a sports influencer and is going to be a coach, for reasons that I may have missed, or also plausibly were never mentioned. He also says he'll donate to the other contestants, because he speaks after Avery and that's rough to follow up.

Finally, Avery and Wes get some alone time where he, ironically, does what the producer hoped and tells Avery he loves her, and they get their kiss! In true Hallmark fashion, the credits roll on this kiss, leaving the viewer to surmise the only possible outcome for mismatched couples who find love during the holidays – a happily ever after.

Like any good Hallmark movie, I finished *Jingle Bell Run* completely satisfied and with a vague sense that I'm not decorating enough. I would give *Jingle Bell Run* four jingle bells out of five, if I had thought to create a rating system before I started writing this. I took away a point because, even for Hallmark, Wes's character arc from filming unlikable TikToks for protein shakes to buying Secret Santa gifts for all contestants felt a bit unrealistic. Also, Avery deserved better. Tune in next week as I ruin the plot to another Christmas classic. In the meantime, you can find 31 unspoiled Hallmark Christmas movies on cable (allegedly), or on Amazon Prime.

A heartfelt initiative

The Rails End Craft Circle, a lively group of crafters that meets monthly at the Gallery, is again demonstrating their creativity and generosity through their 2024 project. This year, the Circle is committed to producing knitted and crocheted items for four deserving local organizations: YWCA Women's Centre in Minden, Brooksong Cancer Retreat Centre, 4Cs Food Bank in Haliburton and the Pregnancy Care Centre in Haliburton.

In a heartfelt initiative, the crafters are dedicated to infusing warmth and comfort into every stitch, focusing on projects designed to support those in need. Among the items being created are "Hats for Comfort", soft, comfortable caps for cancer patients. Worked in various stylish patterns, the caps provide not only warmth but also a sense of normalcy and beauty during the challenging experience of hair loss due to chemotherapy. Each cap made by the Rails End Craft Circle is a labour of love and compassion.

In addition to caps, the Circle knit cotton dishcloths to be included in holiday food hampers for the 4Cs Food Bank. These practical, handcrafted cloths add a personal touch to the hampers, ensuring that recipients feel cared about during the traditional festive season.

Our chilly winters prompted the Craft Circle to focus on creating warm mittens for individuals of all ages. From toddlers to seniors, these mittens will be distributed to those in need through the Pregnancy Care Centre and YWCA Women's Centre, helping to keep everyone stay cozy during the colder months. Recognizing the importance of community support from the very start of life, the Circle also knit soft, wee caps for newborns and toddlers.

The Rails End Craft Circle's 2024 project exemplifies how creativity and compassion unite to make a significant impact. Each crafted item is not only wearable art, it's a heartfelt token of love and hope. The group meets monthly at Rails End Gallery to work on personal projects and heartwarming initiatives like this one. Community support is part of its success, and you can contribute through donating yarn, joining crafting sessions, or simply spreading the word about their projects. Together, we can work to knit a stronger, more compassionate community, one stitch at a time.

Visit www.railsendgallery.com for Gallery happenings.

Submitted by Laurie Jones,
Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre

The Rails End Craft Circle meets monthly at the Gallery to create "wearable art" for members of our community. /Photo submitted

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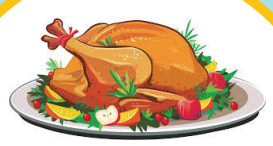

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Storytellers of Haliburton County

Getting it right

JANET TRULL

County Life contributor

Hint: No one gets it right the first time

Writers are observers, listeners, and collectors of odd details. We have some terrific highland hangouts where I have picked up ideas for stories. The walls of coffee shops have absorbed local gossip and outright lies for decades thanks to the tradition of the "community table". This county's storytellers were early to the "post truth" party.

A booth near the community table is a prime location for any journalist or author worthy of the title. Eavesdropping, you might say. And yes, you would be right. The origin of the word eavesdropper is "one who lurks near a place to hear what is said inside, c. 1600". Shakespeare himself may well have been an eavesdropper, standing near an open window under the eavestrough, enduring the annoying drops of rainwater just to get a good scoop. Worth it.

One of the best things about writing is its portability. Carry an old-school notebook with you when you travel, slip your laptop into a backpack, or record conversations on your phone.

Meet David Skinner

Local author, David Skinner, has written at tables and stand-up desks. "I find more and more I am writing in a large comfortable chair with a board across the arms. It is less painful for my aging body." Dave has written eight novels, six of them self-published. He has had success using the Amazon platform where authors can upload and publish their books without any upfront costs. Authors retain creative control and receive royalties depending on how the online sales go. Dave says he took his first two books off Amazon to do some revisions. "My novels Hosting and Swords and Symmetry were written before I learned anything about how to write, so they were rough. The first one contained a lot of ego. I shared a number of ideas about life which did not add anything to the book. I'm currently working to improve them."

Dave makes an important point. Readers don't want an author to tell them what to think. The author must immerse the reader in actions and emotions that show readers the character is evil (or naïve, or kind) so they can experience the story as if they were there. "Show, don't tell," is one of the key rules of good writing.

Check out the variety of summer courses in Fleming College's HSA+D calendar, Dave suggests. Writers need motivation, and the college offers opportunities to improve the craft in memoir writing, professional writing, writing for publication, poetry and other genres.

Be aware that marketing is part of the writing process. Gone are the days of big publishing houses sending authors on cross country tours (unless you are a Giller Prize winner). Be ready to invest some time and money into book sales. You'll have to pitch your book with creative ideas to peak the curiousity of readers. Spend time wordsmithing your book cover and memorize an elevator speech so you can give a concise overview when asked. Here's an example from Dave's book, *My Father's Swords.*

"Warriors, heroes, demons, pirates, wizards, faeries, dragons, and a magic sword come together in a unique coming of age adventure. When his father is killed by pirates, Bray is raised by the Tawshe—who everyone believes are murderous savages. His position as the Crown Prince of Nadia is denied him because the Tawshe have a secret they kill to keep. His family believe he is dead, and most of the Tawshe believe he should have been killed instead of adopted and trained as one of their own, but Bray's life has purpose; retrieve his father›s swords and return to Nadia. A mad wizard›s attempt to harness a demon gives him a chance to fulfill his dreams, if he can survive."

Story Circle News

Publishing is not the only way to share your writing. Our community radio station, Canoe FM, has a program called *Story Circle* that airs Mondays at 11 a.m. Dave Skinner has been coordinating the program with members of the Arts Council. They read submissions and suggest editing when needed. If accepted, writers record their stories with studio engineer, Ron Murphy at Canoe FM.

After several successful years in this position, Dave is retiring. Thanks for all your work, Dave. I have accepted the task of taking over for the 2025 season. I'd like to fill the airwaves with local stories that coordinate with the calendar. If you have a Christmas or New Years story for *Story Circle*, send your submission ASAP. Think ahead! Do you have a love story for February? A cottage opening story for May? Some nostalgic lakeside memories for July? Get writing and send your pitch of 1,500 words or less to haliburtonstorycircle@gmail.com.

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Send your letters to the editor to vivian@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Traditions

I used to live in St. John's, Newfoundland. I had heard that the city resembled the ambiance of a small town, and being from Haliburton, I thought I would have some faint understanding of what the community would feel like.

I was both right and wrong. The sense of community is absolutely there; the warmth, the inclusion, the fact that restaurants sometimes close before it gets dark.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

But unlike Haliburton, it truly didn't matter where I was from or how I got there. I was instantly welcomed; wrapped in the literal warm arms of a stranger named Anne, who was somehow delivering second-hand furniture to my apartment door after she overheard me telling someone in the shopping mall that I had just moved in.

And while I love Haliburton, there is sometimes a stigma about being truly "local".

That stigma goes out the window in Newfoundland. Actually, all stigmas go out the window in Newfoundland. If you're there, you're there, and you better believe that they love you for it.

I lived there for the months leading up to Christmas; watching the snow peaks grow and curl in the sharp winds that came off the Atlantic. Being a student in a new school, a new city, a new province; it had the potential to feel lonely. And it certainly did at times. Moments where I would look out to the ocean and wonder why I made the choices I did to land me so far away from my family, my community.

But I managed to find a new community. A new family, in a sense.

Because of the welcoming energy that it seems the province as a whole carried with them, it's easy to fall into something that feels like a family. Part of their beliefs, their practices, their traditions.

One of my favourite traditions that I was lucky enough to witness during my time on The Rock, was that of the mummers.

If you are able to, I highly recommend looking up mummering online. Because while words can capture many things, there is nothing I could say or do that would do this tradition justice. You just have to see it.

Folks dressed in wacky and whimsical outfits; lampshades on their heads, underwear outside their pants, layers of colours and textures and outlandish garb.

Then they go from house to house, just before Christmas, knocking on the door and asking, "Any mummers 'lowed in?"

The household sets out to guess the identity of the mummers, whose faces are covered in doilies, sunglasses, napkins, tea towels, and masks. Of course, there is a fair share of drinking, songs, and dancing associated with the 300-year old tradition of mummery as well.

When I asked locals about the holiday custom, no one could give me a clear-cut answer as to why. Of course you can look it up, but even after doing a deep dive, the exact reasons behind the age-old tradition are still a little vague.

In 2011, mummering was designated as a distinctive cultural tradition and practice in the province, cementing its place in the history and culture of the community, and the people.

Traditions, no matter how weird and wacky, serve such an important purpose to the identity of a group. Sometimes that group is a whole province or country, and other times it is a family, a collection of friends, or even a smattering of colleagues.

This is the time of year when traditions run rampant. We do plenty of things that, if thought about for a moment, may seem odd. Bringing trees indoors, wrapping boxes in colourful paper, lighting candles to symbolize thoughts and beliefs. In our family, we have a delicate glass pickle ornament that we hide, deep inside the boughs of our tinsel-clad tree. On winter solstice, whoever is able to find the pickle wins the honour of opening the first gift of the holiday season.

It's a time where we do things, just for the sake of doing them. To bring us joy, to connect to those who came before us, and to carve out memories for the next generation.

That's the importance of traditions, and all the magic that they bring.

Top 10 ways to justify that second cookie

I'M NOT going to sugar coat it. I do more than dabble in cookie consumption. When it comes to finishing off a package of cookies, I am somewhat of a savant.

Despite my expertise, cookies are still the one food group that requires me to justify my consumption. And anything past one gets me a side-eyed look.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

So I have learned to adapt, by using my top 10 ways to justify that second cookie. Feel free to use one or the whole package.

1. It would be cruel not to consume the second one, since they mate for life.
2. Someone has to confirm consistency of texture and flavour.
3. It's impossible to have three cookies, if you don't have the second one.
4. Proud supporter of the International Union of Cookie Bakers.
5. Keebler Elves sent threatening text demanding this action be taken.
6. Don't want to be known as one of those uptight people who keep their base impulses under control.
7. Winter's coming. A little extra padding wouldn't hurt.
8. I'm doing an online video review. This is take two.
9. To have a deeper understanding of phrase, "That's the way the cookie crumbles."
10. Would you rather have it happen here or in the grocery store?

Stay

Boulders of clouds rolling over the hills,
as wings flap across a stone Sky, the line of nine geese flying so high, they look like dots of ink,
their honks silencing the pair of crows, screeching in the branches of the willow,
listening to the flight of the geese, fleeing to warmer climes,
these stragglers that lag behind the gaggles of geese that left weeks ago,
my eyes squinting up at Sky, watching from the path as the line of nine, forms a small Vee,
perfect in their precision, as they flap in unison, honking their way over the hills,
where another line of ink dots dribbles into view, twelve, this time, the dozen geese scattering in the grey Air,
before they form a Vee, my eyes never growing tired of watching this feat,
as the fleet of migrating geese grows smaller and smaller 'till they're swallowed by Sky,
leaving in the nick of time,
lead-bellied clouds swelling with seeds of Rain or maybe Snow, as I inhale Air that prickles as it trickles down,
and I quietly curse the crows, that have resumed bickering in the willows, wondering why they stay,
blinking up at the seagull that flaps over the path, squawking as it flies past the crows,
its wings, white as the pebble of Sun that appears from behind a cloud, before it's shrouded again,
a last line of geese emerging, skimming the hills before they fly higher up into Sky,
forming a Vee, so small, it fits into the space between my thumb and index finger,
as I reach up with my hand, my fingers forming a small Vee too, watching the last of the stragglers
flapping their wings,
envying them that they get to leave, as I sneeze into my sleeve, curling deeper into my coat,
as I watch the ink dots fade, Wind slicing through my shoulder blades,
as I slouch along the path, listening to the crows, Wind fraying the limp tresses of the willows,
as I peer up at Sky, swelling with lead-bellied clouds, wondering whether they will birth Rain or Snow,
my feet reaching the River, where I pause on its bank to listen to it flow,
willows' branches drooping down towards it, the River that never sleeps, just slows,
the stragglers of geese, flying somewhere, high up in Sky, towards a warmer place,
while the rest of us stay, our shadows lengthening across the shortening days.

Sylvie Kalenda

Holiday traditions

KATE BUTLER
County Life contributor

Last week, as a crowd gathered at the Haliburton Highlands Museum for the start of Dysart Recreation's annual Jolly Jog, I had a chuckle imagining what early settlers living in Haliburton County a century and a half ago would have made of the event. The appeal of an ugly Christmas sweater might have required a bit of explanation, as would a Grinch costume. Then again, those settlers might have been quick to see some similarities between that fuzzy green fellow and the main character in a recent publication by Charles Dickens with whom they were familiar.

Holiday traditions grow and change and trends may come and go, but many of the traditions which we hold dear around the holidays today do have their roots, or at least the roots of their popularity, in the Victorian era. A Christmas tree is perhaps one of the most iconic symbols of the holidays, but it rose to prominence in many parts of the world thanks to Queen Victoria and her family. As a newlywed couple, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert embraced a tradition of a decorated Christmas tree – a tradition which came from Albert's German heritage, but which was less well known in England. When an image depicting the royal family and their tree was published, everyone wanted to follow suit as Victoria and Albert were the stars of their day. The tradition of bringing evergreens into the home was nothing new, as it had long been the custom to brighten the home during the dark months of the year, but a Christmas tree, with its lights and decorations, quickly became a focal point in many homes during the Victorian era.

While many decorations which adorned those trees were homemade, the Victorian era also brought a surge in commercially made decorations, as well as the first commercially produced Christmas cards. For that invention, we can thank Henry Cole, who in 1843, commissioned an artist to design a card. The first Christmas cards were out of the reach of many who wished to send them, but with more economical postal rates and advances in colour printing, sending cards soon became much more accessible to the point that by 1880, the British Christmas card industry was producing well over ten million cards each year.

In addition, the mid-19th century saw a renewed interest in the singing of carols, the invention of Christmas crackers and even the rise in popularity of turkey as a main focus for a holiday meal. Settlers arriving in Haliburton County in the same era would have undoubtedly been influenced by these changing traditions but for many, the move to the area meant that Christmas became, or perhaps remained, more of a homemade affair. It was however a festive season that we would still easily recognize today, rooted in the same sense of community and celebration that is so vital to many of our favourite holiday traditions today.

Throughout this holiday season, we're asking visitors to the Haliburton Highlands Museum to share some of their favourite holiday traditions with us. Early contributions from our visitors have included baking cookies, playing board games with friends and watching the *Muppet Christmas Carol* with family. What would you add to the list? We'd love to hear!

Out of this world

The Highlands Chamber Orchestra presented "Other Worlds" to a sold out crowd on Nov. 23 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. /TIM YANO Staff photographer

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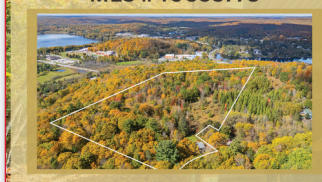

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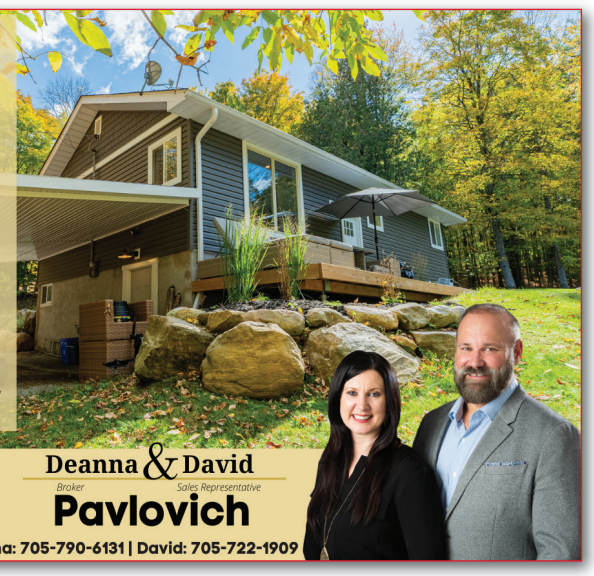

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4.95 acres minutes from Gooderham. 1472 sq.f t. home(approx.) Great privacy. Main floor offers a large family room, living room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms & 4 piece bath. Full undeveloped basement. Propane furnace 2023, newer windows upstairs, central air, new flooring in kitchen, new light fixtures upstairs, recently painted, newer stove, drilled well. Attached workshop & outbuildings. The property is located close to Bear Lake.

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Jogging for joy

The 11th annual Jolly Jog took place at the Haliburton Highlands Museum on Sunday, Nov. 24, where about 40 people, dressed in holiday attire, got some festive exercise on a crisp fall day.

Below, Joe Iles, 3, reacts while warming by a fire with his grandmother, Doreen Button, prior to the jog on. /ADAM FRISK Special to *County Life*

Participants get ready for the 11th annual Jolly Jog

Jolly Joggers make their way out on Sunday

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Contest open to all legal residents of Ontario. Adult prize winner(s) must be 19 of years of age or older. Grand prize winner receives a total of $1500.00 (one thousand, five hundred dollars) in gifts certificate(s) from any Haliburton BIA member. Gifts certificate(s) can be one in the full amount of $1500, or multiple denominations of no less than $100. The grand prize total is not to exceed $1500. Ballots must be received by authorized Haliburton BIA merchant. Prize must be accepted as awarded and may not be substituted or converted to cash.

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m.
Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs)
Ladies darts 7:30 p.m. (downstairs)
Tuesday: Coffee and chat 9 to 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Coffee and chat 9 to 10:30 a.m. Mixed darts 7:30 p.m. Canteen opens at 6 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. Supper special every week. Canteen opens at 4 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) third Sunday every month at 2 p.m.
We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you.

Branch 129 Haliburton

Dec. 8 - Community drum circle, 1 to 2:15 p.m.
Dec. 8 - Jeff Moulton and Mike Clewlow 3 to 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. $5. for non members. Turkey dinner with all the fixings $10. Tickets can be purchased in advance in the clubroom
Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. First Wed of each month - $1000 jackpot, rest will be a $500 jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541. Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Tree of Warmth: The Legion is accepting donations of new mittens, scarves and hats. The donations will be provided to Wilberforce and Cardiff schools.
Monday, Dec. 9, 16, 23 ,30 - Darts 7 to10 p.m., $5/person
Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11, 18 - Darts 2 to 7 p.m., $5/person
Thursday, Dec. 5, 12, 19 - Indoor Cornhole 7 p.m., $5/person
Friday, Dec. 6, 20 - Wings and Jam 5 to 8 p.m., $15/person
Saturday, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 - Meat Draw 3 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 8 - Ladies Auxiliary Breakfast 9 to 11 a.m., $10/person
Friday, Dec. 13 - Senior's 55+ Christmas Party, Call Denice Butler 705-448-8865 to book
Friday Dec. 13 - Fish 'n' Chips 5 to 8 p.m., $15/person
Tuesday, Dec. 31 - New Years Eve Dance Party $25 for members, $30 for non-members. Food provided, Spot Dance Prizes, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Hours: Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to10 p.m.,Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday: 2 to 6 p.m.,Thursday: 2 to 10 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m.,Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.

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Our friends at Dysart et al Andrea Mueller, Rob Camelon, Dave Coulter, Hailey Cole, Abby Roberts, Fire Dept. Volunteers, O.P.P. and EMS Starters: Bill Frost, Brayden Frost, Kristie Frost, Jaylin Frost, Bob Amos, Jesse Lefebvre, Bill Hodges Traffic and Parking Controllers: Matt Oullette, Irv Handler, Brian Monaghan, Bob Park, Tim Nicholls, Will Craftchik, Jaylin Frost. Fowler Construction and Tony for the pylons. Our Friends at Haliburton United Church. Sunbelt Rentals. Many Thanks to all those who entered with their lights, music and WONDERFULLY DECORATED FLOATS & ENTHUSIASTIC DANCERS AND WALKERS AND OUR EQUINE FRIENDS. Those of the Santa Float: David & Betty Mills, Gerald Hadley, James Lawr, Marilyn Frost, Paul Sheardown, Rosemarie Colbourne, Renee Griffith, Bill Frost, and Emmerson Lumber folks Bob Amos, Bill Hodges, Jesse Lefebvre.

Remembering Ken Noble, Jim Meadows,Ernie Winterburn and Sam Charlton

Thanks to Andy Salvatori and Family for donating the tree and to Dysart Fire volunteers and Emmerson Lumber for felling and erecting the tree. Anthony and Juliane VanLieshout for the location and hydro for the tree. Gord and Kathryn Kidd for the Carol Sing CanoeFM & MooseFM, Echo & Highlander for all your help ! Thanks to those donors for helping with the parade cost. And anyone I may have missed!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

From Jim Frost Parade Coordinator,
Downtown Haliburton BIA, and Haliburton and District Lions Club

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Early visit

Barely six weeks old and already Quentin O'Connell has established a rapport with Santa Claus, although the conversation at this point may be a little one sided. Quentin and the Jolly Old Man from the North Pole met Wednesday evening during the open house and Light the Trees celebration at the Haliburton Hospital. Santa may be on hand this Wednesday as well when the Minden Health Centre hosts its ceremonial lighting of the trees and open house.

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

Former reeve remembered as arena is named in his honour

The arena in Minden now bears the name of S.G. (Sinc) Nesbitt. The arena was dedicated to the memory of Sinc Nesbitt at a special ceremony on December 3, with the unveiling of the lettering on the side of the building.

Anson, Hindon and Minden Reeve Jeanne Anthon said the council "wanted the community to remember Sinc in a permanent way so that, over the generations, people will be constantly reminded that this man was someone very special to our life in Haliburton County."

"In contemplating a suitable tribute, council and staff asked ourselves, 'what was most special to Sinc?' We remembered many conversations across the council table that made it clear Sinc cared so much about young people and he had a particular way of showing it in our community — through his commitment to youth activities and, in particular, through hockey," Anthon said. "In fact, our MPP Chris Hodgson said he knew Sinc through the hockey arena earlier than he ever knew him through the political arena."

Anthon noted that Nesbitt spent many hours at the Minden arena, watching all levels of competition, "from men's league games to toddlers making their first shaky attempts on the ice."

(more on page 17)

With the the Legion Flag Party in attendance, the new name of the Minden arena was unveiled Sunday afternoon. The facility will now be known as the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, in memory of former reeve Sinclair Nesbitt.

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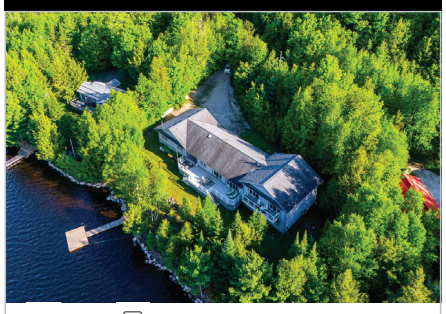

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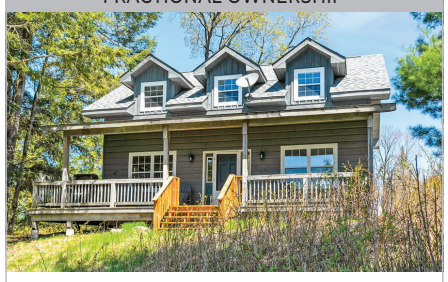

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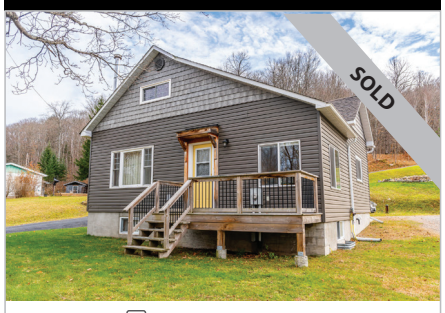

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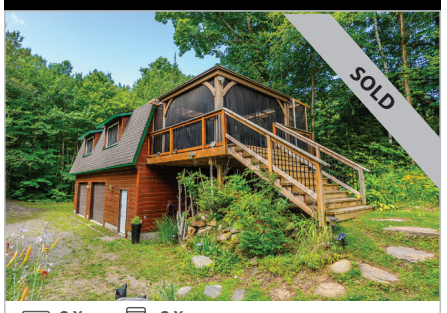

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